

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - RECOMMENDATION

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Subregion: REGION-WIDE **County:** ALPINE, FRESNO, AND INYO

Applicant: STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (SCA)

Project Title: SIERRA TRAILS AND RECREATION INITIATIVE

Application Number: SNC 070275

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will support the deployment of high school trail crew volunteers for three-week service tours to enhance five project areas on National Forest land in the Sierra. Trail projects will affect more than 31 miles of wilderness trails and include trail enhancement; wilderness restoration, and erosion control. Projects also include removal of five campsites from sensitive areas and enhancing/rebuilding two stock exclusion fences to protect meadows and water quality. SNC grant funds will be used as shown in the budget categories below.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve – this project consists of support for on-the-ground site improvements/restoration implemented by youth who will be learning firsthand about the benefits of watershed stewardship. It will leverage \$35,000 of other funding as well as an estimated \$104,000 of in-kind donations, and will also build on a previous SNC Executive Officer Authorization of \$33,750 (SNC 070344) granted to enable SCA to hire and train crew leaders in time to implement its summer program. SCA has demonstrated capacity as shown by its 50+ years of existence, existing partnership with the Forest Service, and experience implementing similar programs all over the United States.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Deploy four, eight-person high school trail crews recruited from high schools in Sierra Nevada, Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Central Valley.	July-August 2008
Accomplish 5,376 total hours of volunteer service.	July-August 2008
Remove brush and loose rocks from 25 miles of trail on the Inyo National Forest (NF). Install 10 water bars/drainage dips. Remove five campsites too close to creeks/lakes.	July-August 2008
Enhance/rebuild two stock exclusion split-rail fences	July-August 2008

approximately ½ mile in length on Inyo NF to protect meadows and water quality.	
Remove and rehabilitate 2.5 miles of unwanted old Golden Trout Lakes Trail on Sierra NF. Reduce erosion of soil into creek.	July-August 2008
Stabilize a .75-mile section of the L. Lake Trail that is deeply incised and currently causing significant erosion and associated resource damage. This section of trail is located between Elba Lake and the bottom of French Canyon.	July-August 2008
Remove brush and loose rock from three miles of trail on Stanislaus NF. Perform erosion control on and reconstruct 1,000 feet of trail. Improve public access.	July-August 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Crew Leader Travel	\$3,000
Crew Leader Coordination	\$15,500
Supplies and Equipment (Non-food)	\$2,000
Project Vehicle Rental, Gas	\$9,000
Crew Member Travel Assistance	\$3,000
Packer Support	\$4,000
Project Support, Evaluation, Reporting	\$8,000
Project Administration	\$5,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$50,000

**STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
SIERRA NEVADA WILDERNESS AND TRAILS INITIATIVE
SUMMER 2008**

Project Descriptions

Stanislaus National Forest. Summit Ranger District. Maintenance of County Line Trail from its trailhead to the boundary of the Summit Ranger District in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. Three miles of trail will be brushed and rocked. Perform heavy maintenance and erosion control on 1,000 feet of trail. Primary activities will consist of drainage repair, erosion control, rebuilding trail through an area of mud and rockslide. Primary benefits will be public access, soil stabilization, and water quality.

Inyo National Forest. Mammoth Ranger District. Trail maintenance, campsite clean up, and repair of livestock exclosure fences in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Remove brush and loose rocks from 25 miles of trail, install 10 water bars/drainage dips, and remove 5 campsites too close to creeks/lakes. Rebuild two stock exclosure fences to protect meadows and water quality at Horseshoe Meadows administrative site and at Casa Vieja Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness. The trail maintenance will take place on the Cottonwood Lakes Trail and Blackrock to Kern River Trail, also in the wilderness. The proposed clean-up of campsites will occur at Jordan Hot Springs.

Sierra National Forest. High Sierra Ranger District. Project Site #1: Remove and rehabilitate 2.5 miles of the old Golden Trout Lake Trail to natural conditions and eliminate, over the long-term, any indication that a trail existed. Reduce erosion of soil into creek between the Piute Canyon Trail and the Golden Trout Lakes. The most severely degraded sections occur in alpine meadows, where the failure of water diversion structures has caused the trail to capture surface runoff and cut severe incisions into the meadows. This project will improve wilderness character and bring wilderness trails to standard.

Sierra National Forest. High Sierra Ranger District. Project Site # 2: Repair and stabilize a section of the L Lake Trail that is deeply (3+ feet in some locations) incised and is currently causing significant erosion and associated resource damage. This section of trail is located between Elba Lake and the bottom of French Canyon and is approximately 0.75 miles in length. It climbs switchbacks through sand and talus slopes where trail structures have failed, causing the trail to become deeply rutted.